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Quarterly Report – Public Page

For Period Ending: March, 2011

Contract Number: DTPH56-07-T-000006

Prepared for: United States Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Pipeline Safety

Project Title: “Validation of Assessment Methods for Production Scale Girth
Welding of High Strength Pipelines with Multiple Pipe Sources,
#275”

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Background

This project addresses gaps in the understanding of girth welding of X100 grade high strength steel pipelines. The objectives of the project are to:

1. Test a large set of girth welds produced under realistic conditions by a state of the art high productivity gas metal arc welding system;
2. Demonstrate the effect of material variability between pipes, between heats and between pipe manufacturers; and
3. Validate current and proposed new weld defect assessment methods against the performance of a large set of welds made under field production conditions.

The project will test girth welds made during the construction of the BP X100 Operational Trial to determine their properties and defect tolerance. The activities will include: a) Review of construction records and selection of welds for examination; b) Test program design; c) Weld testing and examination; d) Evaluation of defect tolerance of welds using fitness for purpose assessment criteria; and e) Reporting and dissemination of results.

Progress in the Quarter

The team is completing the Final Report in order to submit it by the end of the program.

Plans for Future Activity

Over the next quarterly reporting period, the team will submit the draft final report to PHMSA for comments.